

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ACCRA 000017

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/DMALAC, AND OES/HLEE
USDA FOR FAS/OA/BSIMMONS AND APHIS/BRS-JTURNER
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR JLEWIS
STATE PASS TO FDA FOR RLAKE
EPA FOR JANDERSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [GH](#) [SENV](#) [TBIO](#) [TSPL](#) [BIOTECHNOLOGY](#)
SUBJECT: GHANA: STATUS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATIONS

REF: 2003 STATE 263456

1. Per reftel request, Post provides the following information on the legal and regulatory environment covering agricultural biotechnology in Ghana. The Government of Ghana is still developing its biotech policies, so Post will provide regular updates, as appropriate.

2. Ghana currently has no national laws regulating the approval, production, importation, and labeling of products that may contain the products of agricultural biotechnology. However, since the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety became legally binding on Ghana, Ghana has drafted a Biosafety Guideline and will likely complete a National Biosafety Framework by mid 2004.

3. Under the draft Biosafety Guideline, all GMOs entering Ghana will require a permit. The Guideline will govern only contained work on biotech products, according to Mr. Alex Owusu-Biney, the Project Coordinator of the National Biosafety Committee (NBC), which was established to develop the National Biosafety Framework. The Guideline has not been applied to consumer ready foods. For biotech feed and seeds, either imported or produced in Ghana, permits will be required from the Ministry of Environment and Science. Under existing import laws, the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Department (PPRSD) issues phytosanitary permits for seeds including grains such as rice and wheat. The Animal Production Department (ARD) issues permits for feed imported into Ghana. Under existing procedures, these two institutions refer any feed or seed products thought to contain agricultural biotechnology to the Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Institute (BNARI) through the NBC for risk assessment. The Guideline does not apply to consumer ready foods. The Food and Drugs Board (FDB), which registers all food products imported into Ghana, expects to enforce labeling requirements on biotech foods when a law is passed governing agricultural biotechnology.

4. A permit on biotechnology products can also be obtained directly through:

The Minister
Ministry of Environment and Science
P.O. Box 232
Accra, Ghana
Tel: (233) (21) 666049
Fax: (233) (21) 666828

The application should include a signed letter and an accompanying dossier on the product. The dossier should contain contact information of the requester and technical information describing the GMO, the type of application, type of receiving environment, data on environmental impacts, food safety and health impacts on receiving environment. The information should be sufficient to begin risk assessment.

5. Ghana's proposed National Biosafety Framework, which is being funded by UNEP/GEF and will be implemented by the National Biosafety Committee, has four main components: a legislative system or a National Biosafety Law providing guidelines and regulations; an administrative system to handle permits; a decision making system including risk assessment and risk management procedures; and a system for information sharing and public participation. Issues such as the use of labels on biotech products, testing of shipped products, penalties, and traceability systems are still under discussion. It is likely that labels and special documentation will be required for all biotech products.

Yates